Sarah Wollaston (Totnes, Conservative) Click here to see Sarah speak

I warmly welcome today's statement, particularly the rise in the asset threshold, as I well remember my former patients' shock when they realised that for anything over £23,250 they would have to meet their entire costs. However, may I ask the Secretary of State to look again at the impact there will be on rural local authorities, for example, Devon's, which has the fifth oldest population in England?

Jeremy Hunt (South West Surrey, Conservative)

I will certainly do that, and I am grateful for my hon. Friend's comments. I would just say that it is in some of those areas with the highest proportion of older people that the impact of the current lottery in care provision is so dramatic and needs addressing so quickly. I therefore hope that her constituents will welcome the certainty in these proposals, but I will certainly look at and identify whether any particular issues are raised in rural areas.

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